

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 641

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor Trooper Paul F. Mathes upon his retirement.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal concerns to ensure the public's safety and welfare, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty in service of public safety; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in law enforcement, dedicating their time and efforts to aiding those in emergency situations and apprehending those who have broken the law; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Paul F. Mathes is one such sterling individual who has, for the past thirty-seven years, dedicated his life to serving his community, this State, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Mathes began his career in law enforcement on February 14, 1979, as a deputy sheriff with the Massac County, Illinois, Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, he moved to Tennessee in 1984 and accepted a position as a deputy sheriff in the Gibson County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Paul F. Mathes began his career with the Tennessee Department of Safety-Highway Patrol; and

WHEREAS, an authority on military history with particular emphasis on the Pacific Theater in World War II, Trooper Mathes has traveled extensively and was present at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1991, for the fiftieth anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, he visited the islands of Saipan and Tinian in March 1995 and then traveled to Iwo Jima for an event commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the bloodiest battle in Marine

Corps history; while on the island of Tinian, he observed the atomic bomb pit that was utilized for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Mathes is a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society, and United States Marine Corps Historical Society and an honorary crew member of the USS *Pennsylvania*, which was the flagship of the Pacific Fleet in World War II; and

WHEREAS, he is also an honorary member of the "L" Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion – 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment – 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, who were veterans of Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, a World War II Marine Corps reenactor, Trooper Mathes participated in the dedication ceremony of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he is a published author of many articles in a number of periodicals on the events that occurred in the Pacific Theater of World War II and a distinguished keynote speaker at many World War II reunion events nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Mathes's life motto is "Veni, vidi, vici," which means "I came, I saw, I conquered"; and

WHEREAS, having devoted the past thirty-seven years of his life to law enforcement, Trooper Paul Mathes has recently announced his much-deserved retirement, effective September 2, 2016; and

WHEREAS, in his retirement, Trooper Mathes plans on visiting and experiencing as many Pacific battlefields as possible and adding to his extensive collection of World War II artifacts and memorabilia, which are on display in his home; he is also looking forward to participating in future reenactments and public education programs around the country; and

WHEREAS, a professional of the highest caliber, Trooper Mathes is greatly esteemed by his fellow troopers, who have the utmost respect and admiration for him; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Kent Peters said about Trooper Mathes, "I wish he would use shorter words, but I'll miss his guidance and friendship."; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Michael Morgan said, "He has always been a dedicated employee. He makes being a supervisor easy."; and

WHEREAS, when Senator Reggie Tate was asked to comment on the retirement of his close friend from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, he quipped, "Officer who?"; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Paul Mathes has dedicated his time and professional expertise to serving his nation and this State with acumen and alacrity, and it is wholly fitting that he be recognized for his dedication; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Trooper Paul F. Mathes for his many years of astute service as a member of the Tennessee Highway Patrol and thank him for his dedication to ensuring the safety of the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.